

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 AID-05 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4494

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0614

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: FONMIN LARAKI'S COMMENTS

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH DAVID ROCKEFELLER AND AMBASSADOR JANUARY 31, FONMIN LARAKI COMMENTED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION THAT SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO SPANISH SAHARA WAS QUITE DIFFICULT, BECAUSE SPAIN WAS CLEARLY IMMOBILIZED AND UNABLE TO ACT. CONVERSATIONS WITH CERTAIN SPANIARDS, SUCH AS COUNT OF BARCELONA (RABAT 121), HAD LEFT LARAKI WITH POSITIVE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD MOROCCAN POSITION AND WERE NOT DISINCLINED TO ACT UPON IT. FRANCO, HOWEVER, WAS SENILE AND IMMOBILE ON ISSUE, AND THEREFORE NOBODY ELSE COULD MOVE ON IT EITHER.

2. LARAKI WENT ON TO SAY HE HAD SOME REAL QUESTION UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ABOUT FUTURE OF SPAIN, WHICH COULD, IN HIS VIEW, GO THE WAY OF PORTUGAL. IF COMMUNISTS BECAME
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INFLUENTIAL IN SPAIN, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO

ESTABLISH ACTIVITIES OR EVEN BASES IN SAHARA. LARAKI UNDERLINED
THAT SAHARA SHOULD BE SEEN MAINLY IN GEOPOLITICAL TERMS RATHER
THAN ECONOMIC ONES: THE SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY WAS WHAT
COUNTED, NOT ITS REVENUES. IT HAD BEEN MOROCCO'S CONSISTENT
POLICY TO SUPPORT AN ANTI-COMMUNIST FRONT FROM TANGIER TO
DAKAR, TO PROTECT FLANK OF AFRICA CLOSEST TO LATIN
AMERICA, LARAKI ASSERTED, AND IT WAS IN INTEREST OF BOTH
MOROCCO AND U.S. THAT SUCH POLICY SHOULD SUCCEED.
COON

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